

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masao Fukuda, et al.
Serial No.: Unknown
Filed: Unknown
For: PACKAGING MACHINE
Group Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown
Attorney Docket: ISHD P165D1

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents and/or fees referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on November 28, 2001 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10, Mailing Label Number EL898648831US, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.


Sunshine Noriega

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Office Action in the above-referenced application which is being submitted simultaneously herewith as a divisional of application Serial No. 09/372,009 filed August 11, 1999, now pending, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figs. 8 and 10 as shown in red on the accompanying photocopy, the changes comprising adding descriptive words --air pressure source--, --regulator--, --air cylinder-- and --CHUTE--. Formal drawings incorporating the changes as approved will be submitted after a notice of allowance is received.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Add the following new paragraph above line 4 of page 1:

--This is a divisional of application Serial No. 09/372,009 filed August 11, 1999, now pending.--

Replace the paragraph starting at line 26 of page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The attachment plate 72 for the second air cylinder 71 engages with the screw bar 74, and guide members 75 are provided on the lower surface of the rotary frame 41 such that the attachment plate 72 will be prevented from undergoing any rotary motion when the motor 73 is activated but will move longitudinally along the screw bar 74 while remaining in the upright position. As explained above, the heater unit 50 is moved between the sealing position and the retracted position during a normal course of operation. Thus, the distance between the sealing position and the retracted position is relatively short. An area in which these positions are found will be herein referred to as the "work area". When the chute 4 is replaced by another with a different size or when the initial position of the heater unit 50 or its support unit 60 is automatically set according to the size or the set position of the chute 4, for example, the heater unit 50 is removed much farther away from the working area so as to provide a sufficiently large space, say, for exchanging the chute 4. Such a farther removed area will be herein referred to as the "non-work area". The motor 73 may thus be described as serving to move the heater unit 50 between the work and non-work areas. The attachment plate 72 has a protruded portion 72a at its center where it is penetrated by the screw bar 74 so as to make it easier for the attachment plate 72 to move along the screw bar 74. In Figs. 4 and 7, numeral 6a indicates a stopper for not allowing the rotary frame 41 to rotate further in the clockwise direction (as indicated by arrow Y in Fig. 7) from the set position indicated by dotted lines, although it is allowed to move in the counter-clockwise direction (as indicated

by arrow X in Fig. 7), say, to reach the position shown by solid line in Fig. 7.

Replace the paragraph starting at line 23 of page 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 10 also shows that the support plate 56, attached to the attachment plate 51 of the heater unit 50, is connected with the arm member 61' by means of a pair of mutually parallel link mechanism 64' (of which only link members 64c' and 64d' are seen), but its pressure-controlling air cylinder 66' is not disposed inside the link mechanism 64' but its back end is supported rotatably by a support member 61a' attached to the arm member 61' and the tip of its rod 66a' is rotatably connected to a support part 64a' provided on the outer surface of an extended portion 64d" of the link member 64d' away from the chute 4. If the rod 66a' is pushed out of the air cylinder 66', the heater unit 50 is shifted towards the chute 4. If the rod 66a' is retracted into the air cylinder 66', the heater unit 50 is moved away from the chute 4. In this manner, the pressure to be exerted on the film by the heater unit 50 for effecting longitudinal sealing can be controlled.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 6-17.

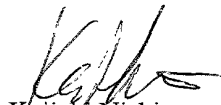
REMARKS

Claims 1-5 currently remain in the application. Claims 6-17 have been cancelled.

This is a divisional application. In the prosecution of the parent hereof, a requirement for restriction was imposed as between Group I consisting of claims 1-5 and Group II consisting of claim 6-17. An election was telephonically made November 3, 1999 to have claims 6-17 of Group II examined first. Said parent application being currently pending, the instant divisional application is being filed to have claims 1-5 of Group I examined.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,



Keiichi Nishimura
Registration No. 29,093

November 28, 2001
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP
P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
Telephone: (510) 843-6200
Telefax: (510) 843-6203

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph starting at line 26 of page 8 has been amended as follows:

The attachment plate 72 for the second air cylinder 71 engages with the screw bar 74, and guide members 75 are provided on the lower surface of the rotary frame 41 such that the attachment plate 72 will be prevented from undergoing any rotary motion when the motor 73 is activated but will move longitudinally along the screw bar 74 while remaining in the upright position. As explained above, the heater unit 50 is moved between the sealing position and the retracted position during a normal course of operation. Thus, the distance between the sealing position and the retracted position is relatively short. An area in which these positions are found will be herein referred to as the "work area". When the chute 4 is replaced by another with a different size or when the initial position of the heater unit 50 or its support unit 60 is automatically set according to the size or the set position of the chute 4, for example, the heater unit 50 is removed much farther away from the working area so as to provide a sufficiently large space, say, for exchanging the chute 4. Such an a farther removed area will be herein referred to as the "non-work area". The motor 73 may thus be described as serving to move the heater unit 50 between the work and non-work areas. The ~~portion of the attachment plate 72 engaging the screw bar 74 is made thicker, as indicated by symbol 72a,~~ attachment plate 72 has a protruded portion 72a at its center where it is penetrated by the screw bar 74 so as to make it easier for the attachment plate 72 to move along the screw bar 74. In Figs. 4 and 7, numeral 6a indicates a stopper for not allowing the rotary frame 41 to rotate further in the clockwise direction (as indicated by arrow Y in Fig. 7) from the set position indicated by dotted lines, although it is allowed to move in the counter-clockwise direction (as indicated by arrow X in Fig. 7), say, to reach the position shown by solid line in Fig. 7.

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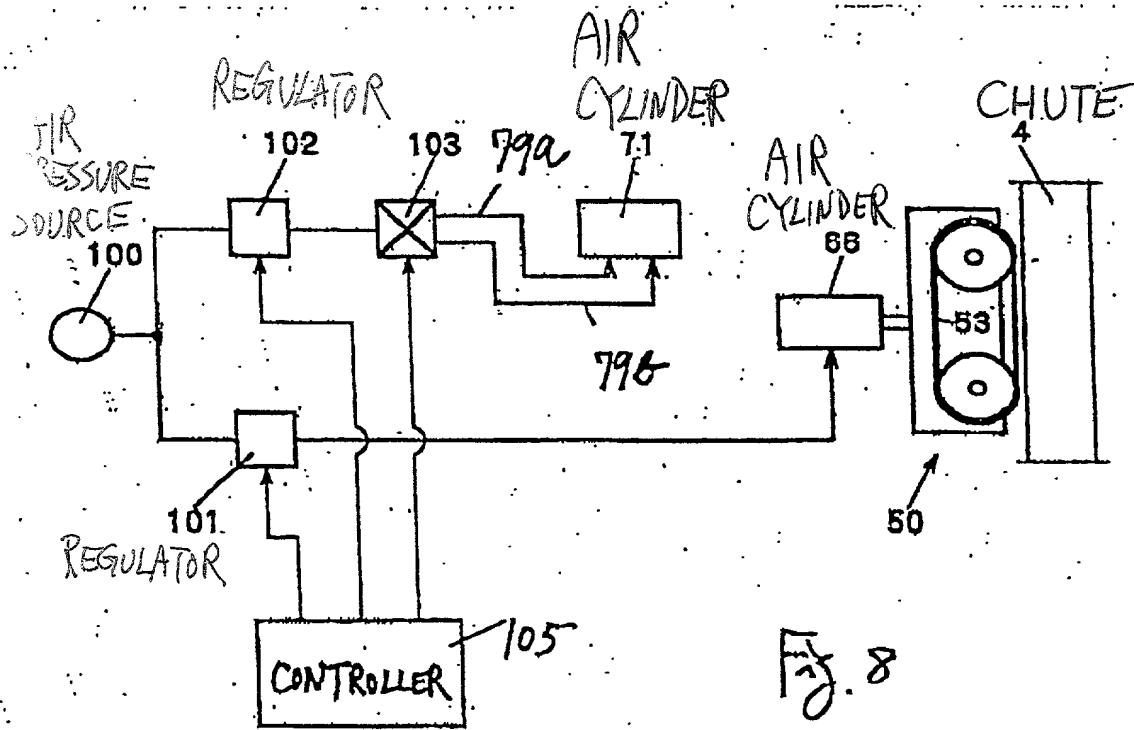


Fig. 8

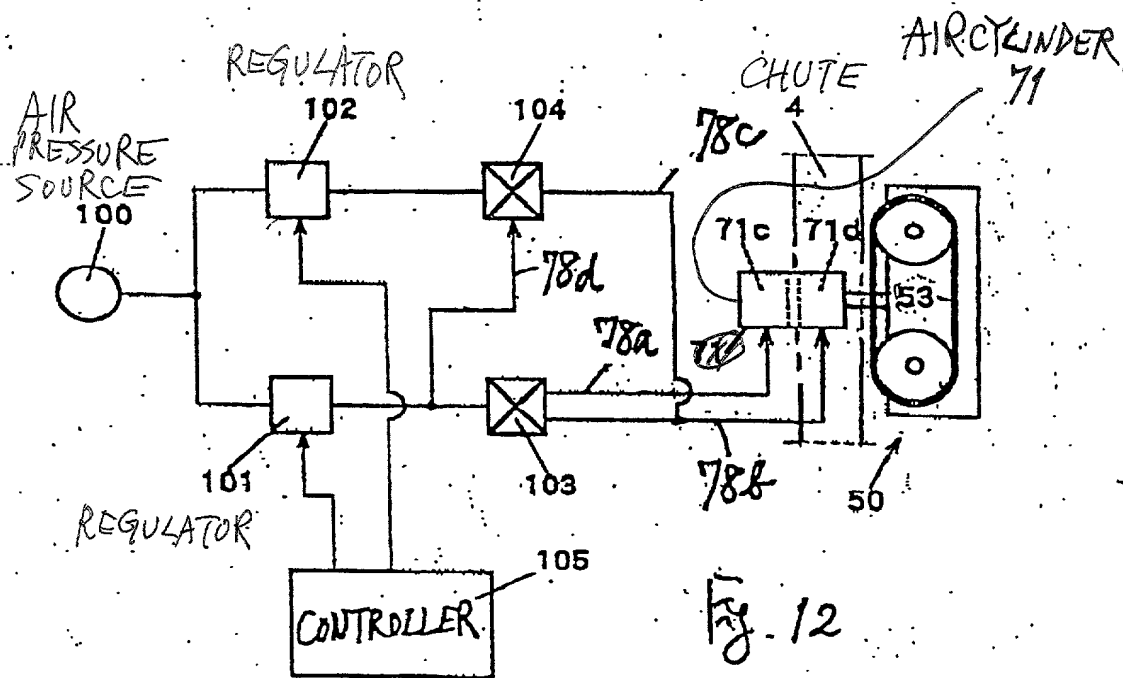


Fig. 12